

REMARKS

Claims 26, 27, 29-34 and 38-42 are presently pending in the application.

The Examiner has rejected claims 38-42 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite in that certain terms recited in claims 38, 41 and 42 lack positive antecedent basis. With respect to the terms in claim 38, line 14, claim 38 has been amended at line 1 to positively recite the pressure vessel, the raw liquid and the raw liquid inlet. In addition, claim 39, line 4 has been correspondingly amended to refer to the raw liquid now positively recited in claim 38.

With respect to claims 41 and 42, Applicants do not agree with the Examiner's rejection, since positive antecedent basis for the separation membrane appears in lines 4-5 of each claim. Nevertheless, claims 41 and 42 have been amended to clarify that the separation membrane in line 6 of claims 41 and 42 is the same envelope separation membrane referred to in lines 4 and 5 of each claim. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.


All of the remaining claims 26-27 and 29-34 have been allowed, and the Examiner has indicated that claims 38-42 would be allowable if amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

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Reply to Office Action of August 31, 2004

In view of the above Amendment and Remarks, it is submitted that all of the claims in the application are now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

MASAAKI ANDO ET AL.

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(Date)

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